Practitioner's Docket No.: 892 015 PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Masashi ONOUE

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

CHARGE INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS, FRANCHISE SYSTEM PROVIDED THE CHARGE INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS, CHARGE CALCULATING METHOD, RECORDING

MEDIUM, AND PROGRAM

Box Patent Application Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington DC 20231

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 addressed to the Box Patent Application. Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231 on January 16, 2001 under "EXPRESS MAIL" mailing label number EL 74273-2028 US.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Janet M. Stevens

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicant wishes to amend the subject application as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 7, line 2, please delete "or 5".

Claim 8, line 2, please delete "or 5".

Claim 24, line 2, please delete "or 23".

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 33 are pending herein. Applicant has amended the claims to eliminate multiple dependent claims. No new matter has been added. Applicant believes the case is now in condition for examination.

If the Examiner believes that contact with applicant's attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call applicant's attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

January 16, 2001 Date

Stephen P. Burr Reg. No. 32,970

SPB:jms

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